

Committee Attendance: Rob Andreoli, Yen Chen, Jon Eisenberg, Paul Goldberg, Theola Poole, Suzanne Weiss, Richard Wells. *Absent:* Kelly Cameron, Cathy Drzyzgula, Jose Zegarra Holder, Ashley Simmons, Mike Reiter, Noreene Wells *Cable Office Staff:* Keith Watkins

Call to Order

- Richard Wells called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes of January meeting

- Votes were postponed due to absence of quorum

Cable Office Report

- Keith reported that the January complaint reports did not contain anything extraordinary. A number of complaints for exposed cable or other materials.
- Comcast Franchise Renewal: The process is continuing. Approximately 11 focus groups are scheduled to be announced in the coming weeks.
- The Cable Office is still working to acquire useful energy compliance information with regard to set top boxes
- The Comcast Truck Trip Fee settlement has produced a few inquiries to the Cable Office; it is not known how many refunds have been processed directly through Comcast. CCAC members chose not to pursue publicizing the refund availability.

Unfinished Business

Council/CE Outreach and Participation: Richard recounted the discussion from his 5pm meeting with County Executive Leggett, regarding the CCAC 2012 Position Paper distributed to all Council members and the CE. He reported that the CE was unaware that the Council GO committee had requested a six-year Cable Plan be issued by his office. Richard also requested his support in defining a repayment plan for Cable Funds used for other purposes, and informed the CE of the CCAC efforts to improve program guides for PEGs from providers. After discussion, Richard will arrange to meet with individual Council members as current CCAC Chair, and will issue invitations to other members.

New Member Recruitment: Appointments for the four committee members are in process to be completed within the next few weeks by the Council. Current vacancy announcement ends March 9. Interviews will be scheduled in advance of the March CCAC meeting.

GO Committee concerns Richard indicated that the GO committee was concerned about utilizing cable funds for activities such as videotaping candidates for MCM air and online spots, as well as the training MCM offers County residents on the equipment, as opposed to perhaps a course at Montgomery College. GO discussion also included expanding wi-fi in the County to additional libraries and municipal facilities, such as recreation centers. A discussion followed of the pilot program underway in Silver Spring and Bethesda, as well as the access currently provided by Comcast and Verizon for County-related facilities. The potential benefits of each to various segments of Montgomery County residents was also discussed. The consensus was that the CCAC supports the re-evaluation of cable funding uses, and would encourage sharing more complete information regarding the costs and benefits to better assist in any specific evaluation.

Program Guides: Metadata Listings for PEGs: Suzanne reported that while Comcast does not include the channel designations for MCPS, the program guide often does not align with the programming. Keith will follow up.

Bill Enacted 32-11- The new CERB will be in place in March and will forward requests to the committee. CCAC has prepared a listing of action items, which will be utilized for our report along with the CCAC 2012 Position Paper.

Follow up of "Ownership of Issues" program. An updated list has been circulated to the CCAC. Committee members should continue to step forward for additional responsibilities and to report on proposed actions. No additional information was added at the meeting.

Power information on Set-top boxes: No new information on energy consumption of equipment being distributed to Montgomery County cable users by providers.

Upcoming Meetings and PEG Facility Tours Verizon has postponed attendance until the March CCAC meeting. Keith will share the preliminary list of questions with them. CCAC visits to PEG sites will be planned at a later time.

New Business

none

REMINDER: Next CCAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28 at 7pm.

Public Comments

none

Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Submitted by: Suzanne Weiss, CCAC Secretary

CABLE AND COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Montgomery County, MD
Proposed Annual Report 2011

raise issue of power consumption in set top boxes
review MoCo draft social media policy and provided feedback
brought feedback on reduced price internet rollout
metadata, or provider information, on provider guides for PEG channels
worked with 311 on department cable issues
funding allocations for PEGs
retention of cable fund for communications
end general funds transfers and make public aware
outreach to communities
will work with Cable Office on Comcast franchise renewal aspects
identify and evaluate new technology and alternatives to cable, and impact on revenues
work to make MoCo residents more aware of the cable office and their rights with providers
work with Council committee to increase responsiveness for cable issues
 service reliability
 budgeting and funding
 customer service
 service changes